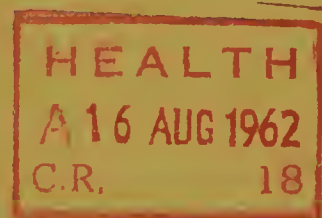


445 (1)

~~Mr. Morley Perry R/59~~
2 Library

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

Health of the Borough

for the Year

1961



BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

FOR THE YEAR

1961

by

D.J.N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

and

F. Le V. FRIEND, S.R.N., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing
Superintendent



HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1961

The Worshipful the Mayor,
Alderman Miss E.I. Padwick (Chairman)

Alderman J. Vaughan

Alderman J.W. Richardson (January to April, 1961)

Councillor R. Affleck (March to December, 1961)

Councillor J.R. Bell

Councillor W.R. Bingham (January to September, 1961)

Councillor P.N. Brand

Councillor Barrington Myers

Councillor K.L. Smith

Councillor D.S.J. Stacey (December, 1961)

Councillor T. Staniforth (June to December, 1961)

Councillor Mrs. I.A. Stevenson

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

D.J.N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge and Borough of Lymington and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire

Address: Druitt Buildings, Christchurch, Hants.

Telephone No. Christchurch 900.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

F. Le V. Friend, S.R.N., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

D.J. Cartridge, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

A.F. Saunders, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1961

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH.

I submit for your information and consideration my fifteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Borough.

As an integral part of this Report there follows the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector on those sections of the work of the Health Department with which he is specially concerned.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

The Borough, occupying the extreme south west corner of Hampshire enjoys notable advantages in its siting and its natural amenities. It has a sea coast some $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in extent, two rivers which fall into a land locked tidal basin, and a hinterland which adjoins the New Forest and the heaths to the west of the Avon. It derives some protection from the rather higher land on the west. The soil is principally sandy or gravelly though there is a belt of clay in the eastern part.

The western and older part of the town has been largely built up for some time and much of the post war development has taken place in the relatively narrow strip which extends from the rivers towards the east. Further exciting developments in this area are envisaged. In the past ten years the population has increased by 28%, almost entirely by immigration.

The town is heavily dependant on the aircraft industry and at the time of writing the impending closure of our largest factory is a matter for the most serious concern.

There is no industrial smoke problem.

RAINFALL FOR 1961:

	<u>Ins.</u>		<u>Ins.</u>
January	5.14	July	0.93
February	2.47	August	0.47
March	0.02	September	2.90
April	4.41	October	4.35
May	0.83	November	2.29
June	0.91	December	3.21

TOTAL: 27.93 inches.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area: 4813 acres (Census 1951)

Population: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1961:
26,110.

Number of inhabited houses: 8816

Rateable value: 31.3.61: £438,170.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £1,748. 13s. 5d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1961: (as supplied by the Registrar-General)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Borough of</u> <u>Christchurch</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS:</u>					
Total	338	177	161		
Legitimate	321	170	151		
Illegitimate	17	7	10		

LIVE BIRTH RATE: (comparability factor 0.98)

per 1,000 population	12.9	17.4
after application of comparability factor	12.7	

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Borough of Christchurch</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
<u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS:</u>					
per cent of total live births				5%	
<u>STILL BIRTHS:</u>					
Total	6	2	4		
Legitimate	6	2	4		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		
<u>STILL BIRTH RATE:</u>					
per 1,000 total (live & still) births				17.4	18.7
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS:</u>				344	
<u>INFANT DEATHS:</u>					
<u>Deaths under one year of age</u>					
Total	7	4	3		
Legitimate	7	4	3		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		
<u>Deaths under 4 weeks of age</u>					
Total	4	2	2		
Legitimate	4	2	2		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		
<u>Deaths under 1 week of age</u>					
Total	4	2	2		
Legitimate	4	2	2		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
per 1,000 live births - Total				20.7	21.4
per 1,000 live births - Legitimate				21.8	
per 1,000 live births - Illegitimate				Nil	

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Borough of Christchurch</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
<u>NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
(Deaths under 4 weeks)					
per 1,000 live births				11.8	15.5
<u>EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
(Deaths under 1 week)					
per 1,000 live births				11.8	
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
(Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined)					
per 1,000 total live & still births				29.1	
<u>MATERNAL DEATHS:</u> (Including abortion)				Nil	
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
per 1,000 total (live & still) births				Nil	0.33
<u>DEATHS:</u>	365	193	172		
<u>DEATH RATE:</u> (Comparability factor 0.85)					
per 1,000 population				13.9	12.0
after application of comparability factor				11.9	
<u>SPECIAL CAUSES:</u>					
<u>Death rate per 1,000 population</u>					
Tuberculosis				0.04	0.07
Pneumonia				1.07	0.67
Influenza				0.11	0.15
Cancer (lung and bronchus)				0.69	0.49
Cancer (all causes)				3.14	2.16

CAUSES OF DEATH:

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infection	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	6	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	14	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	-	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	-	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	37	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2
16. Diabetes	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	27
18. Coronary disease, angina	59	33
19. Hypertension with heart disease..	2	2
20. Other heart disease	17	25
21. Other circulatory disease	9	14
22. Influenza	2	1
23. Pneumonia	16	12
24. Bronchitis	8	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion..	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	1
34. All other accidents	2	3
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	-	-
TOTAL (all causes)	193	172

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS:

Year	Population	Borough of Christchurch			England and Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1929	8,728	49.0	18.6	11.1	74	16.3	13.4
1932	11,250	62.5	17.0	11.3	65	15.3	12.0
1936	13,080	53.1	15.8	12.2	59	14.8	12.1
1940	15,330	24.7	13.1	12.8	55	14.6	14.3
1944	14,810	30.0	22.3	14.2	46	17.6	11.6
1948	19,190	16.0	16.1	11.25	34	17.9	10.8
1952	21,290	21.9	14.9	11.03	27.6	15.3	11.3
1956	23,140	22.6	13.4	13.3	23.8	15.7	11.7
1957	23,790	9.0	14.0	12.9	23.0	16.1	11.5
1958	24,300	14.6	14.0	14.1	22.5	16.4	11.7
1959	24,890	17.3	13.9	16.1	22.0	16.5	11.6
1960	25,580	25.8	13.6	14.3	21.7	17.1	11.5
1961	26,110	20.7	12.9	13.9	21.4	17.4	12.0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE:

The incidence of notifiable disease was low.

After the previous year's heavy outbreak the number of cases of measles was relatively few as had been anticipated. Elsewhere this was a "measles year" and sizeable outbreaks occurred in areas all around us.

Disease	Number notified
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough.. ..	13
Measles	82
Pneumonia.. ..	9
Erysipelas	2

TUBERCULOSIS:

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
No. on Register at 31.12.61	148	103	15	21	287
No. of new notifications	1	-	-	-	1
Transfers from other areas	5	2	-	-	7
Deaths	1	1	-	-	2

FOOD POISONING:

No case of food poisoning occurred within the Borough, but a case in a nearby Borough was thought to be due to the consumption of a pie manufactured in a Christchurch factory. The manufacturing process and its associated workers were examined and specimens submitted for laboratory examination without conclusive result. It was considered that unsatisfactory storage of the pie after it left the control of the manufacturers was the cause of the incident.

LUNG CANCER:

Eighteen deaths occurred from lung cancer. This is the greatest number of deaths from this cause to have been recorded in the Borough in one year, and continues the rising toll of death from a disease which is now believed to be preventable and largely self inflicted. Over the past ten years 103 persons have died from lung cancer in the Borough, of this number 37 died in the first five years and 66 in the last five. This sort of rise is in keeping with the national trend - in 1945 there were 188 deaths from lung cancer per million of the population of England and Wales, but in 1961 the figure had risen to 494 per million. The chances of dying from lung cancer have increased by more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ times in sixteen years and the increase has taken place almost entirely among the ranks of cigarette smokers. Taken over a longer period the increase is even more dramatic for the death rate from this disease has risen by nearly 20 times in the past 30 years.

The recent report of the Royal College of Physicians musters all the evidence and concludes that cigarette

smoking is the most likely cause of the world wide increase in deaths from lung cancer, that it is an important factor in chronic bronchitis, and that it probably increases the risk of death from coronary heart disease in early middle age. In the face of authoritative pronouncements of this order, the Medical Research Council issued a similar warning four years ago, the Government and the Local Authorities have a positive duty to make the facts widely known so that the public may judge if the risks involved in smoking are worth the pleasure derived. Certainly much more must be done to counter the advertising of these dangerous substances and to discourage the young in particular from acquiring a habit to which so many of their elders and mentors are hopelessly addicted.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA:

1. Laboratory Facilities.

The Borough is very well served by the Public Health Laboratory at Boscombe, which is under the direction of Dr. G.J.G. King.

The following list of specimens from the area, examined at the laboratory during the year, has been kindly supplied by the Director.

Nose and Throat ..	..	..	30
Faeces and Urine ..	..	..	29
Ice Cream ..	..	..	216
Water ..	..	..	20
Food ..	..	..	26
Other Sanitary ..	..	..	68
<hr/>			
			389
<hr/>			

2. Hospitals.

Christchurch Hospital - acute and chronic. A progressive scheme of modernisation is in force.

The majority of patients from the Borough requiring hospital treatment go to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth.

Cases of infectious disease are treated at Alderney Hospital, Poole.

3. Tuberculosis.

The Chest Clinic continues to be held at the Millhams Street Health Centre. The Chest Physician, Dr. Stuart Robertson, holds a joint appointment with the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council. Dr. Robertson is also Director of the Bournemouth Mass Radiography Unit.

A voluntary Care and After Care Committee covers the area served by the Christchurch Clinic i.e. the Boroughs of Christchurch and Lymington, the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and a small part of New Forest Rural District. The Committee, under the Chairmanship of Lady Manners is widely representative and much devoted work is carried out, both in the collection of funds and in personal service to patients.

No visit of the Mass Radiography Unit was paid to the Borough during the year, but the 100 m.m. Odelca Unit continued to pay weekly visits to the Pit Site for the convenience of family doctors. Good use was made of this facility.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY COUNTY COUNCIL:

1. Ambulance Service.

The area Ambulance Service is run from a main station at "Hillcroft", New Street, Lymington. There are sub-stations at Christchurch, Ringwood and New Milton and all ambulances are under wireless control. In order to ensure the effective use of the available vehicles, all requests for service have to be made to the main station - Telephone No. Lymington 2331.

2. Nursing Services.

The District and Midwifery Service is administered locally by the District Health Sub-Committee.

Details of Nurses and their areas:

<u>District served</u>	<u>Name and address</u>	<u>Service</u>
Christchurch	One Vacancy appointment pending.	District Midwife
Christchurch (Part)	Mrs. Gutheridge, 36, Walcott Avenue, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 729	District Nurse
(Part)	Miss D.H. Powell, 83, The Grove, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 1967	District Nurse
(Part)	Miss K. Ella, 13, Edward Road, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 2225	District Nurse
Somerford (Part)	Miss M. Ellwood, 2, Rothesay Drive, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel: Highcliffe 3426	District Midwife
(Part)	Miss E. Mitchell, 17, Stanpit, Christchurch, Tel: Christchurch 1204	District Nurse Midwife
Mundeford Purewell	Miss E. Mitchell, 17, Stanpit, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 1204	District Nurse Midwife
Highcliffe (Part)	Miss M. Ellwood, 2, Rothesay Drive, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel: Highcliffe 3426	District Midwife
(Part)	Mrs. I. Sherwood, 2, Bracken Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel: Highcliffe 3282	District Nurse Midwife

HEALTH VISITORS:

Christchurch West

Mrs. M.A. Tate,
3, Warren Edge Road,
Southbourne.
Tel: Bournemouth 47407

Christchurch East

Miss E.M. Gibbs,
4, Sandy Lane,
Christchurch.
Tel: Christchurch 2015

Somerford and Porewell

Miss E. Sheldon,
"Staveley",
Colehill,
Wimborne.
Tel: Wimborne 598

Highcliffe

Mrs. P.M. Mogridge,
Wessex House,
237, Lymington Road,
Highcliffe.
Tel: Highcliffe 3276

3. Home Help Service.

The Home Help Service is administered locally by the District Health Sub-Committee.

The Divisional Organiser is Miss M.P. Stevens,
Druitt Buildings, Christchurch. Telephone: Christchurch 900.

4. Child Welfare Clinics.

<u>Child Welfare Centre</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Christchurch	County Council Health Centre, Millhams Street	Every Tuesday 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Somerford	Social Centre, Southey Road	Every Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.
Highcliffe	St. Mark's Hall	First and Third Fridays in month at 2.30 p.m.

5. School Health Service.

School Medical inspections are carried out periodically by Assistant County Medical Officers and Health Visitors.

Minor ailment and special clinics are held at the Millhams Street Health Centre.

6. Smallpox Vaccination.

This is carried out free of charge by family doctors and at Child Welfare Clinics. The records are maintained by the County Medical Officer. Family doctors may, and normally do, charge for certificates of vaccination.

325 primary vaccinations and 156 re-vaccinations were reported. These figures are a considerable advance on last year's low totals. The proportion of babies under one year who were vaccinated was 70%, the highest percentage recorded in this District for over eight years and comparing favourably with the County average of 56%. The national average was only 40%.

7. Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

The scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is carried out by family doctors and, at Child Welfare Clinics and schools, by Assistant County Medical Officers.

There was a considerable rise in the number of primary immunisations and in the number of refresher doses, each figure being in fact a post war record for this area. This is particularly pleasing since recent experience has shown that diphtheria is still capable of producing outbreaks in communities where the protection rate is low. The high rate of concomitant protection against whooping cough and tetanus in the very young is also comforting.

Immunisations completed under 5 years of age	.....	348
" " over 5 " " "	.....	21
		<hr/>
		369
		<hr/>

Refresher Doses	520
Immunisation against Whooping Cough alone	2
Proportion of children born in previous 12 months immunised	73%

8. Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is largely carried out by family doctors, either at their surgeries or at special sessions at the Millhams Street Health Centre. Treatment is also given by Assistant County Medical Officers at Child Welfare Clinics and at special sessions.

In April a fourth dose of polio vaccine became available for children between the ages of five and twelve. Special sessions were held at schools to assist with the large number who were suddenly eligible for this additional reinforcing dose. The response was reasonably satisfactory. In October fourth doses were suspended owing in the main to difficulties in the supply of salk vaccine due to the impending introduction of the oral vaccine.

1961

Number who received primary course of two doses	914
Number who received third doses	1,349
Number who received fourth doses	1,967

SCHOOLS:

The Secondary Modern Schools remain full with many children remaining at school until the age of 16 or 17, seeking G.C.E. passes or the qualifications of other examining bodies. The Somerford School now has the use of all its classrooms, and at Twynham further accommodation is to be constructed including a much needed school hall.

The Somerford Junior School is for the first time completely housed on its own site following the completion of four new classrooms in September 1961. It was then possible to relinquish the accommodation used in the Secondary School and at Sandhills. The numbers may well now have reached their peak.

The new Junior School at Highcliffe should have been completed by the autumn of 1961 but was delayed by contractors difficulties. It was in fact occupied in May 1962.

Numbers at the other Junior Schools of the Borough show a continuing tendency to decrease.

WATER:

Christchurch is supplied with water by the West Hampshire Water Company whose works are situated within the Borough. The company, in addition, supplies part of Bournemouth, the whole of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, part of the New Forest Rural District and part of the Borough of Lymington. Partially treated water in bulk is also pumped to the oil refinery at Fawley.

The raw water is drawn from the River Avon at Christchurch and treated by rapid and slow sand filtration and super chlorination. In addition the company has developed a source of supply from deep boreholes in the chalk at Hale Park, some 16 miles north of Christchurch near the Wiltshire border. This supply serves Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District and may, at time of need, supplement the supply in Christchurch.

Raw and treated waters are examined daily at the Company's own water testing laboratory which is in charge of a qualified chemist and bacteriologist. In addition, periodic independent samples are sent to an outside laboratory.

The supply of water to the consumer is constant, of moderate hardness, free from plumbo solvent action, and entirely free from metals.

The Company's records show 8,839 separately assessed domestic dwellings to be supplied from their mains in Christchurch. No standpipes are in use.

A typical result of an examination of the treated water is shown below.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received on 1.6.61
from WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY

Chemical Results in parts per million

Appearance: Bright with very few particles.
Turbidity: Nil
Colour: 4 Odour: Nil.
pH: 7.9 Free Carbon Dioxide: 4.
Electric Conductivity: 395 Dissolved Solids dried at
180° C: 270.
Chlorine present as Chloride: 17 Alkalinity as Calcium
Carbonate: 185.
Hardness: Total..... 215 Carbonate..... 185 Non-carbonate.. 30.
Nitrate Nitrogen: 3.2 Nitrite Nitrogen: absent.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.038 Oxygen absorbed: 0.55.
Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.026 Residual Chlorine: 0.13.
Metals: Iron, Zinc, Copper and Lead: absent.

Bacteriological Results.

Number of colonies developing on Agar { 1 day at 37°C: 2 days at 37°C: 3 days at 20-22°C.
3 per ml 4 per ml 11 per ml.

	<u>Present in</u>	<u>Absent from</u>	<u>Probable number</u>
Presumptive Coliform			
reaction	- ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	- ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Cl. welchii reaction	- ml	100 ml	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not unduly so, contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

SEWERAGE:

The new Sewage Disposal Works in Stony Lane came fully into commission in March. In the early months there

were many complaints of unpleasant smells which were fully justified. These were due in part to the warm dry weather at that time but also to the fact that the bacterial processes in a new works take time to develop to full efficiency. Conditions have greatly improved latterly though from time to time complaints are still received. Unfortunately no sewage works is free from smell at all times and if one of the more odorous processes, such as desludging happens to coincide with a light south westerly wind householders in the Burton area may well complain of nuisance. Such conditions are likely to be of short duration. In general the works are being conducted most efficiently and every effort is made to reduce nuisance to a minimum.

Active measures are being taken to relieve some of the overloaded sewers. New sewers are shortly to be laid from Smugglers Lane to Somerford Bridge and plans are being prepared for a scheme to collect the sewage from the Jumpers area and pump it direct to the works through a new sewer, bypassing the existing pumping station at quomps and reducing the loading there. Trouble is still occurring in Mudford and this will be the next area to receive attention.

Sewer laying is well advanced in the adjoining Rural District at Burton and sewage from this area will reach our Stony Lane Works in 1962.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

The Public Health Inspectors continue to pay particular attention to food premises and receive the utmost co-operation from the owners concerned. In general local food premises are well conducted and are felt to be a credit to the town.

The public is increasingly conscious of the merits of good food cleanly handled and this in itself is a most useful stimulus towards the continual improvement which is everywhere evident.

There was one successful prosecution in respect of a mouldy pie.

HOUSING:

226 private houses were built during the year as

compared with 210 in 1960. In addition, 36 dwellings were constructed for old people by the Christchurch Old People's Welfare and Housing Society. Council construction completed consisted only of 14 old people's dwellings at Highcliffe.

The following details relating to housing accommodation and the current waiting list have been kindly supplied by the Housing Officer - Mr. A.G. Head.

Families housed in Council
Accommodation which fell
vacant during the year: 66

There were 284 applicants on the housing list, made up as follows:-

<u>No. in family</u>	<u>No. of applicants</u>	<u>Total personnel</u>
1	44	44
2	80	160
3	70	210
4	39	156
5	16	80
6	3	18
7	2	14
	—	—
	254	682
	==	==

Applicants for Old People's Dwellings are included in the above, viz:-

Strete Mount	12
Sydney Road	6
Gordon Mount	12

SUMMARY

	<u>Year ended December</u>			
	<u>1951</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Applicants on General List	916	233	256	254
Families at Holmsley	193	4	-	-
	—	—	—	—
	1109	237	256	254
	==	==	==	==

PROBLEM FAMILIES MEETINGS:

Two further meetings of voluntary workers and officials were held to discuss and co-ordinate the efforts being made to help certain difficult families. In general it is felt that the situation has greatly improved and there has been a progressive reduction in the number of families under supervision. The meetings continue however to serve a useful purpose in maintaining liaison between workers in this field and in keeping the overall picture up to date.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948: SECTION 47:

No case was considered for action.

GENERAL REMARKS:

The health of the Borough was satisfactory throughout the year.

The incidence of notifiable disease was low. The number of cases of measles was small though in surrounding areas it was a "measles year".

The estimated mid-year population increased by 530 to 26,110 (The preliminary 1961 Census figure was however 26,498).

Deaths exceeded births by 27.

The birth rate fell for the third successive year. There was a reduction in the number of illegitimate births.

The infant mortality rate fell.

The death rate fell and after application of the comparability factor was close to the national figure.

Deaths from lung cancer reached a record total for the Borough.

The new Sewage Disposal Works were brought fully into commission.

I wish again to express my gratitude to the Mayor and

Members of the Council for their continued interest and encouragement, my colleagues in other departments for their advice and assistance, and Mr. Friend and his staff for their industry and loyal co-operation.

D.J.N. McNAB.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1962.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

R E P O R T

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

FOR THE YEAR

1961

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,
OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twenty-first Annual Report upon the Sanitary and Cleansing Services of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

As in previous years, costs in respect of refuse collection and disposal are for the Financial Year and cover the twelve months ending 31st March, 1962.

The South Coast is an attractive area, and this is reflected in the continued increase in the number of persons who choose to live in this part of the country. The population of the borough has increased from 25,580 in 1960, to 26,498 at the time of the Census, an increase of 918. The Registrar General's estimate at mid-year, 1961 is 26,110.

This sustained increase in the population and in the number of new premises - 276 during the year under review - adds to the problems of the department, particularly in connection with refuse collection and drainage work.

HOUSING - SLUM CLEARANCE:

Properties of this type are practically non-existent in your district. The few properties which might have come within this category were demolished when the bypass was constructed. Such houses as were considered to be no longer fit for habitation were made the subject of special reports to the Public Health Committee, 4 properties having been demolished during the year.

HOUSING - RECONDITIONING:

Here again, Christchurch is fortunate in that other than in the older parts of the borough most of the properties are comparatively new and require but little attention by the department. Some of the older properties

have to be dealt with from time to time, and it is these to which your Inspectors turn their attention. Many of these properties are let at uneconomic rents, and owners find it difficult and sometimes well-nigh impossible to maintain them as they would wish.

The extent and nature of the work which can be called for is governed by the Public Health and Housing Acts. These Acts are limited in scope in that such essential items as hot water supplies, provision of baths and lavatory basins, etc., cannot be demanded.

Improvement Grants to assist in the provision of these essential services are available, but not always sufficiently well known. Therefore, the number of applications is small in relation to the number of properties lacking these facilities.

It is to be hoped that future legislation will require the provision of these essential services before a house is to be considered in all respects fit for habitation.

31 properties were reconditioned during the year.

HOUSING - OVERCROWDING:

As and when possible, your Inspectors continue their survey to ascertain which properties, if any, are overcrowded within the meaning of "overcrowding" as defined in Section 77 of the Housing Act, 1957. 79 properties were inspected during the year. In no case was overcrowding found to exist.

RENT ACT, 1957:

Like many other Acts, the 1957 Rent Act appears to have petered out, at least in so far as Christchurch is concerned, no application for a Certificate of Disrepair having been received for the second year in succession.

Since the introduction of the Act in July, 1957, only 32 applications have been made; 15 certificates have been issued and only 9 cancelled.

Even allowing for the comparatively high standard of housing in this area, one could reasonably have expected

a larger number of applications for these certificates. As it is, no such applications are being made, and one is left with the thought that this is due either to apathy on the part of the tenants or to a ready response by the owners to the occupiers' requests. I hope the latter is the case.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES:

The supervision of the preparation, storage and distribution of food is essentially one of the primary duties of the department, and one to which a good deal of attention is given by your Inspectors in their efforts to ensure a high standard.

Certain standards are laid down in the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960, and it is the duty of your Inspectors to ensure that these standards are maintained.

Members of the public are becoming hygiene conscious and deal at premises which, in their opinion, maintain a high standard, not only in the quality of the goods, but also in the methods of displaying them. This has the effect of ensuring that traders do their utmost to make their premises attractive and increase their clientele. This is healthy competition.

Personally I believe that the food premises in Christchurch and Highcliffe are a credit to the borough and that the standard is second to none.

As in previous years, more shops are going over to self-service, and the range of pre-packed food is gradually being extended.

The number of food premises is now 250. This does not include hotels and clubs. The breakdown is as under:-

Grocers	66
Greengrocer and Fruiterer	20
Baker and Confectioner	11
Sweets	37
Fishmonger and Fryer	12
Butcher	17
Cafe and Restaurant	42
Works and School Canteens	20
Licensed Premises	25

261 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act. They are as follows:-

- 168 are registered for the sale of ice cream
- 2 are registered for the storage of ice cream
- 43 are registered for the preparation of sausages, cooked meats and pickled meats
- 1 is registered for the manufacture of sausages and cooked and preserved meats
- 11 are registered for the preparation of fish by any process of cooking
- 36 premises registered for the purpose have discontinued the sale of ice cream

FOOD INSPECTION:

For many years there has been very close liaison between the traders and the department, and when in doubt as to the quality of food, traders seek the advice of your Inspectors. Such an arrangement ensures, as far as it is possible to do so, that food of doubtful quality is withdrawn from stock, such food being voluntarily surrendered.

With the exception of meat which is disposed of to manufacturers of animal feeding stuffs, all unsound food is disposed of at the refuse tip.

Following is a list of food surrendered during the year.

1099 lbs	of meat
269 tins	of meat
48 lbs	offal
2	chickens
20 lbs	rabbit
71 lbs	ham
26 lbs	bacon
4 stone	pigs' spleen
11 dozen	pork pies
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen	polonies
233 tins	fruit
17 tins	fruit juice
25 tins	fish
5 gallon	basket of cockles
7 lbs	prawns
98 tins	vegetables

10 tins	spaghetti
3 cartons	cheese
4 tins	milk
6 boxes	coconut mallows
14 lbs	cornflour
56 lbs	margarine
56 lbs	shortening

SAMPLING - FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:

Mr. J.S. Preston, Chief Sampling Officer, Hampshire County Council, has kindly furnished me with particulars of samples taken in the borough during the year. His report is reproduced hereunder:-

"During the year ended the 31st March, 1962, 56 samples were obtained under the Food and Drugs Act, within the Borough of Christchurch.

36 of the samples consisted of milk and only one was unsatisfactory, this being due to a slight fat deficiency in the sample which was taken from a single churn forming part of a larger consignment of milk, of which the average fat content was of the required standard. No offence was involved in these circumstances but the producer was acquainted with the result.

20 samples of articles other than milk were procured and were free from any complaint.

Attention was also given to the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, as regards their application to food and drugs."

MILK SUPPLY:

There are no pasteurising or bottling plants in the district, all milk consumed in the area being bottled at establishments in one or other of the neighbouring boroughs. As these establishments are under the supervision of the respective local authorities, and as samples are taken at source, it was not thought necessary to sample at this end.

The number of persons retailing milk is now 82. The figure for the previous year being 77.

The number and type of licence in force is as follows:-

Number of distributors of milk	82
Number of dairies on register	3
Dealers licensed to use the designation Tuberculin Tested Milk	24
Dealers licensed to use the designation Pasteurised Milk	79
Dealers licensed to use the designation Sterilised Milk	23

ICE CREAM:

Very large amounts of ice cream are consumed every day, and it can be said to have become part of the daily diet. It is therefore essential that a careful watch should be maintained to ensure purity of the product.

Most traders take up the sale of this article in pre-packed form, and subject to adequate storage, the risk of contamination after manufacture is negligible. The only ice cream sold from bulk is at restaurants and cafes where the risk of contamination exists. In fact, it has been found that the few samples coming within Grade 3 or 4 are from such establishments.

216 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Methylene Blue Test, the results were as shown:-

Grade 1	205
Grade 2	7
Grade 3	1
Grade 4	3

A number of itinerant vendors sell ice cream in the district. These persons are employed by reputable firms whose depots are in Christchurch, Bournemouth and Poole. The vehicles used and the personnel employed show a high standard of cleanliness.

DRAINAGE:

Development on quite a large scale, particularly in the Highcliffe area, has continued during the year.

Development of this nature necessitates a great deal of attention being given to new drainage work. Supervision and testing take up a good deal of your Inspectors' time. This work is of the utmost importance, particularly in an area such as this where sewage has to be pumped, and where it is essential to ensure that ground-water does not gain access to the sewers.

It is the policy of the department to abolish cesspools and bucket latrines where possible. Due to the absence of sewers in some of the less populated districts, it has been found necessary to drain to cesspools or septic tanks.

Where the nature of the subsoil permits of good drainage, owners are encouraged to construct septic tanks as these, if properly used, give many years of service with comparatively little attention.

The number of properties not connected to the sewers, and the facilities available are:-

Draining to Septic Tanks	90
Draining to Cesspools	58
Bucket Latrines	32

CARAVAN SITES:

26 sites have been granted licences in accordance with the requirements of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. Sites vary from the single caravan occupied by the owner to the large commercial sites where the number is as high as 312. The total number of caravans allowed on all the licensed sites is 1010 of which 211 are permanently occupied.

The new licences lay down the conditions to be observed and the facilities to be provided. These include such matters as roads, sanitary accommodation, wash basins, baths, water supply and drainage.

Whereas in former years accommodation for tents was available on a number of sites, the new licences exclude these, and site owners no longer accept campers.

Notwithstanding the comparatively large number of caravan standings available on the many sites in the borough,

I believe that many prospective caravanners have to be turned away due to lack of accommodation. This problem may be resolved when the Forestry Commission's site at Holmsley is fully established.

CLEAN AIR ACT:

Four complaints of nuisance from smoke were received during the year. In each case the complaint referred to the burning of garden refuse. As, however, all the material had been destroyed at the time of inspection, it was not possible to prove a nuisance. The persons disposing of this material by burning were advised of alternate means of disposal.

The emission of smoke from industrial premises has never been a problem in this area. There are only a few premises at which boilers are used, and with one exception, all are oil-fired.

PET ANIMALS ACT:

There was no change in the number of persons licensed to keep a Pet Shop, the number remaining at two. Your Inspectors visit the premises at irregular intervals to ensure compliance with the terms of the licence.

No contraventions were noted during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:

(a) Refuse Collection.

The collection and disposal of refuse is, from the Public Health point of view, one of the most essential services administered by the local authority. It is important that the service operates smoothly, and that the day and time of collection should vary as little as possible.

It has always been the aim of the department to maintain a weekly collection, and although this proves difficult at times, especially when holidays intervene and during periods of sickness, a regular collection was maintained throughout the year. Apart from the normal

collection of refuse, special collections, varying from 1 to 3 per week, are made from Shops, Hotels, Beaches and Camping Sites.

Bulky refuse which cannot be accommodated on the normal rounds, is made the subject of special collections, the County Council having asked that this type of material should be collected by local authorities with a view to preventing it being deposited in ditches or on waste land.

(b) Refuse Disposal.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, and material collected during the year was disposed of partly at River Way, the remainder being tipped at Stanpit.

Trial holes are dug on that section of the Marsh which is to be reclaimed, and where the quantity of soil warrants it, such soil is stripped and stock-piled for future use. A very large quantity previously reclaimed from the Marsh was made available to the Borough Engineer for use at River Way and at the roundabout.

Covering material is always a problem, and in Christchurch this is obtained from the British Transport Commission from whom a fairly regular supply of ash is purchased, 1330 tons having been acquired during the year.

(c) Staff.

Whereas in the previous year the staff numbered 21, the number at the time of preparing this report is 20, made up as follows:-

Foreman (driving most of the time); 4 drivers;
12 loaders; 1 salvage packer; 1 bulldozer driver
and 1 tip attendant.

(d) Transport.

The vehicles in use by the department are as under:-

2 Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tippers ...	6 years old
1 Shelvoke and Drewry Side Loader	11 years old
1 Dennis Side Loader	15 years old
1 Bedford Side Loader	19 years old
1 Karrier Side Loader	1 year old
1 Howard Bulloader	6 years old

(e) COSTS:

COST STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1961/62
AS SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF
HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross expenditure
	1	2	3	4	5
		£	£	£	%
	<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>				
1	GROSS EXPENDITURE				
	(i) Labour	7,754	2,061	9,815	51
	(ii) Transport	5,375	1,638	7,013	37
	(iii) Plant, equipment land and buildings	1,001	267	1,268	6
	(iv) Other items	-	1,074	1,074	6
	(v) Total gross expenditure	14,130	5,040	19,170	100
2	GROSS INCOME	105	1,266	1,371	-
3	NET COST	14,025	3,774	17,799	-
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)	-	-	-	-
	<u>UNIT COSTS</u>				
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	20. 7.	4. 5.	25. 0.	
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	14. 3.	3. 6.	17. 9.	
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	37. 2.	8. 1.	45. 3.	
		£	£	£	
8	Net cost per 1,000 population	537	142	671	
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,492	402	1,894	

SALVAGE:

An ever increasing number of articles which were formerly packed in cases or crates are now delivered to retailers in cardboard containers. At one time, these containers were returnable and therefore were not available as salvage.

As is to be expected, when prices are attractive, a number of merchants collect this material regularly. When prices are low, as now, these merchants withdraw and leave the material to be collected by the local authority, either as salvage or refuse.

Due to limited storage capacity at the depot, a percentage has to be disposed of at the tip.

The Council have quite recently acquired an electric baling press. This should enable a larger quantity to be baled each day, thus conserving storage space.

A rather disastrous fire occurred at the depot in September, most of the contents being destroyed. The building was quickly repaired and re-equipped, the baling of paper and rags being interrupted for only a few days.

198 tons of paper, rags and metals were sold during the year; the value, excluding that of the material destroyed by fire, being £1,241., a slight increase on the previous year, when the value was £1,202.

The cost of sorting and baling, excluding overheads, was £767.

WORK STUDY:

The services of a Work Study Consultant were engaged to investigate the efficiency and cost of the existing Refuse Collection and Disposal services. His report came to hand quite recently and the Council have not yet decided what action is to be taken to implement the findings of the report.

RODENT CONTROL:

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act places upon local authorities the responsibility for ensuring that their district is, so far as practicable, kept free from rats and mice. The total destruction of these pests, an almost impossible feat, is not envisaged. It is, however, essential that steps should be taken to destroy as many as possible.

Rats reproduce at an alarming rate, and to be effective destruction must be on a continual basis. Mr. Cox, your Rodent Officer, gives this matter his undivided attention, and I have no doubt that his efforts are proving worthwhile.

As in former years, treatment at private premises was free. The cost of treating business premises is recovered in full.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, a survey of the sewers was made, bait being placed in 120 manholes. None of the bait was taken, an indication that the sewers are free from rats.

Quarterly and Annual Returns are submitted to the Ministry.

The years work is summarised hereunder:-

Number of premises inspected	730
Number of premises infested	435
Number of dwellings treated	382
Number of business premises treated	40
Number of local authority premises treated	6
TOTAL number of visits	2436
Estimated number of rats and mice destroyed	2440

FACTORIES:

247 visits were made by your Inspectors to the 124 factories in the area to ensure compliance with those sections of the Factories Act for which the Council are responsible.

These sections relate to cleanliness, overcrowding, ventilation, etc., of factories without mechanical power, and the provision and maintenance of sanitary accommodation

in all factories, whether or not mechanical power is used.

Generally speaking, the standard of the factories in your area is good.

SUMMARY:

The standard of housing in the borough is good.

Food hygiene is at a satisfactory level.

Rodent control is effective.

The system of refuse collection and disposal is fairly satisfactory.

Atmospheric pollution presents no problem.

I wish to express my thanks to the Mayor and Members of the Council; to Dr. McNab and colleagues in other departments. My thanks also to the staff of my department for their loyalty and co-operation.

FRANCIS LE V. FRIEND.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

"Stour Cottage",
Barrack Road,
Christchurch.

July, 1962.

T A B L E 1.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Housing Visits	39
Revisits	411
Housing overcrowding	80
Drainage visits	1137
Revisits	1146
Nuisances	156
Revisits	308
Unsound food	92
Revisits	34
Food premises	413
Revisits	41
Ice Cream	53
Revisits	29
Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	48
Revisits	26
Ice cream samples	225
Infectious diseases	3
Verminous premises	18
Revisits	16
Factories	232
Revisits	15
Outworkers	20
School Canteens	29
Public Conveniences	175
Vans, tents, etc.,	145
Camping sites	13
Revisits	13
Shops (Shops Act).....	430
Offices	8
Hawkers	21
Defective refuse bins	285
Refuse collection and disposal	473
Salvage	74
Rodent Control	2436
Closet accommodation	22
Pet Animals Act	9
Beaches	5
Unclassified	209
Rent Act	5
Rivers and streams	9
Water supply	1
Water samples	37
Places of entertainment inspected	1
Food samples	6

8948

T A B L E 2.

RECORD OF NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE

The following statement shows in detail work carried out under the supervision of the Department.

(a) DRAINAGE:

Number of new buildings drained	161
Repairs or amendments to existing drains	25
Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed	30
Length in yards stoneware drains laid	10058
Manholes and covers provided	1276
Intercepting traps fixed	22
New gully traps fixed	599
Soil pipes and vent shafts fixed	198
Soil pipes and vent shafts repaired	2
Water tests applied	474
Smoke tests applied	79
Cesspools abolished	7
Cesspools emptied	6
Septic tanks constructed	6

(b) SANITARY CONVENIENCES AND FITTINGS:

New W.C. accommodation provided	72
New W.C. apartments provided	72
New W.C. pedestals provided	73
W.C.'s cleansed and repaired	4
New flushing cisterns provided	73
Flushing cisterns repaired	4
Baths provided	72
Sinks provided	71
Lavatory basins provided	77

(c) MISCELLANEOUS:

Roofs repaired	17
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	10
Damp walls remedied	25
Yards repaired	5
Chimney stacks repaired	3
Walls repaired	5
Ceilings repaired/renewed	8
Walls replastered	3
Fireplaces repaired/renewed	3
Floors of rooms repaired	4
New windows provided	1

T A B L E 2. (continued)

Windows repaired and/or made to open	20
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	21
Doors repaired or renewed	8
Ventilated food stores provided	3
Staircases provided or repaired	3
External paintwork	3
Handrails provided	3
Dustbins provided	134
Nuisances - Smoke	7
Nuisances - Accumulation of manure or refuse	6
Rooms disinfected	1
Premises disinfested	16
Bakehouses cleansed	2

T A B L E 3.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

During the year 628 complaints were received as detailed below:-

Rats and Mice	311
Food	82
Insects	3
Defective dustbin or absence of	167
Smells	10
Choked drains	8
Defective W.C., flush pipe or cistern	5
Defective walls or ceilings	1
Dampness	4
Defective guttering or roof	8
Defective chimney breast or chimney stack	1
Cockroaches	1
Dilapidations	2
Defective fireplace	1
General defects	4
Fleas and bugs	3
Accumulation of refuse	2
Defective windows	1
Nuisance from smoke	4
Nuisance from animals	1
Unsatisfactory domestic conditions	2
Miscellaneous	2
Insanitary conditions - toilets	1
Nuisance from noise	4

628

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED

Table 4 shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions prejudicial to health.

T A B L E 4.

Number of Notices Served

NOTICES	OUTSTANDING 31.12.1960	NUMBER SERVED	COMPLIED WITH	WORK DONE BY L.A. IN DEFAULT	OUTSTANDING 31.12.61
Informal	8	21	22	-	7
Statutory	1	3	3	-	1
TOTAL:	9	24	25	-	8

SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED:-

Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936 - 1
Section 9, Housing Act, 1957, - 2

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1961 FOR

THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as
to health (including inspections made by Public
Health Inspectors).

PREMISES:	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	18	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	118	229	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	124	247	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS:	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted:
	Found	Remedied	Referred:		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	1	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

NATURE OF WORK	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (C)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole-some premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Plastics - Fancy Goods	9	-	-	-	-	-
Curtains and furniture hangings	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	-	-	-	-	-